

VII Funding and Reporting Mechanisms.

CNLM receives CVFTL HCP mitigation fees (currently \$600/acre) from the city and county permit holders. Those fees are available for both land management and additional land acquisition needs, and are added to mitigation funds once collected and invested by TNC, that have now been transferred from TNC to CNLM. There is a proposal being evaluated that would raise the mitigation fee back to its \$600/acre original level. This is being contemplated as a means to fund additional acquisitions within the sand source areas omitted in the original preserve design. A previous amendment to the CVFTL HCP allows the use of mitigation fees to acquire and manage lands within that sand source area.

In February 2000 TNC transferred \$6,034,459.56 to CNLM. CNLM will place \$ 3,000,000 in a long term investment vehicle to be used as a permanent management endowment. CNLM will direct the investment of these funds enabling them to grow to offset inflation and meet management needs into the future. The interest from this endowment provides for all management costs. A cost analysis is presented (Figure 8) that includes the range of tasks that are required to maintain the preserve system in its current condition and to address the management actions indicated in this plan. This analysis includes hours for activities currently being handled by volunteer labor including building maintenance, trail maintenance, docent coordination, production of visitor information, and exotic species removal. These are essential tasks that are required to maintain the Thousand Palms Preserve in its current condition, but have not been funded due to lack of available financial resources. The cost analysis does not include the cost of funding the Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge Manager (see below). At such time that the USFWS covers the costs of the Refuge Manager, an additional \$40,000 will be available for managing the Coachella Valley Preserve System. At that time, the Preserve Management Committee can determine if the available funds will be directed toward hiring an Assistant Preserve Manager (as was the case prior to funding of the Refuge Manager), or will be directed toward some other preserve system need. Because of the addition of the hours for an Assistant Preserve Manager, the cost analysis is not a proposed annual budget.

A sum of \$40,000 per year has been agreed by the Management Committee to be provided to the USFWS Refuges division, to support a Refuge Manager position for the Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge, through FY 2002. After that year, the USFWS Refuges will fund that position. These costs are also supported by interest from the management endowment.

Other mitigation funds transferred from TNC or collected from the city and county permit holders will be used to acquire privately held lands within the original preserve boundaries and those lands in approved expansion areas deemed essential to maintaining the population viability of CVFTL within the Preserve System.

CNLM will provide annual reports to the management committee on the status of the invested funds, budget and cost analyses, and a summary of all management activities, including ecological monitoring results. At the Management Committee meeting prior to the beginning of the fiscal year (October 1 for CNLM), CNLM will provide the reports on the previous year's activity , as well as a proposed budget and workplan for the following year.

VIII. Literature Cited

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- Weaver, D. C. 1981. Aeolian sand transport and deposit characteristics at ten sites in the Coachella Valley: part 2. *In* The effect of blow sand reduction on the abundance of the fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*) in the Coachella Valley, California. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, L.A. District. PP 64-180.

IX. Decision Record

This Decision Record hereby approves and puts into effect the attached Coachella Valley Preserve System Management Plan, which outlines management guidance and actions for conserving the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and other species protected within the Preserve System. Each of the Preserve System Management Committee members, whose authorized officers' signature appears below, is committed to implementing this plan and ensuring consistent management throughout the Preserve System. These decisions do not apply to private land not under the jurisdiction of one of the Management Committee members.

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Field Manager, BLM

Date

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Regional Director, USFWS

Date

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Region Manager, CDFG

Date

draft

Superintendent, Salton Sea Satellite District, CDPR

Date

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Regional Director, TNC

Date

draft

Executive Director, CNLM

Date